

## MEETING SUMMARY, FORMER NANSEMOND ORDNANCE DEPOT (FNOD) RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD (RAB)

To: RAB Members, Interested Parties  
From: Adriane James, U.S. Army Corps Government Co-Chair  
Sandra Chaloux, CEC, Inc., RAB Facilitator  
Re: June 7, 2007 RAB Meeting Summary

<b>RAB Members Present:</b> Tim Fink Adriane James Bruce Johnson Victor D'Ortona Steve Mihalko Gregory Byrd for Tom O'Grady Marian "Bea" Rogers David Saunders Rob Thomson Ed Wallingford Cherie Walton Bob Williams	<b>Affiliation:</b> TCC USACE, Govt. Co-Chair Respass Beach Ashley Capital VDEQ City of Suffolk Community Co-Chair Bennett's Creek EPA VDOT Reactivities Management Corporation Dominion
<b>RAB Members Absent:</b> Steve Hill Kemp Littlefield	GE Lockheed Martin

### **Introduction and Welcome/Call to Order (6:17 p.m.)**

*(Sandra Chaloux – CEC, Inc.)*

The meeting was called to order and the meeting attendees introduced themselves. Regarding corrections to the March RAB meeting summary, Lynn Bartlett stated that he thought he had said he "could" speak to the Industrial Development Authority about putting a fence around the property to prevent dumping on their property, instead of "would". Mr. Byrd said that they are evaluating other opportunities to restrict access since the area is quite large.

### **RAB Business**

***Government and Community Co-Chair Comments (Adriane James & Bea Rogers)***

Adriane (Government Co-Chair) thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and for their service through the years. Adriane said she didn't have anything definite to report on project funding yet. She told the RAB that the Corps is going through a transformation but that she didn't know how things are going to work out. She said she would be able to tell the RAB more about that in September.

The RAB celebrated their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary with cake, and Adriane and George handed out Certificates of Appreciation. This RAB began meeting in April 1997. Sandra pointed out that a number of the RAB members have been working with the Corps on this project for 10 years, and how amazing it is to have people that dedicated to a volunteer organization.

Adriane disseminated RAB Recruitment flyers to the RAB members to help in recruiting new members. Bruce Johnson said that Pete Celeste, the president of the Burbage Grant Homeowners' Association, is highly interested in joining the RAB. Katie Moore, another Burbage Grant resident who attended, also expressed an interest in joining the RAB. She said that she really enjoys the newsletters. She said she has had some involvement with restoration work at the Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point. She works with the U.S. Coast Guard on environmental issues. David Saunders told the meeting participants that the community is reading the Restoration Newsletters. David said several people have

approached him in the grocery store, called, or emailed him about the newsletter and his participation on the RAB.

#### ***Landowner Updates***

*TCC* – Tim Fink said that classes were going again for the summer. TCC's enrollment is up, so you're going to see more people out on the Portsmouth campus. That is good for us.

*Ashley Capital* – Victor said that Ashley is continuing to renovate and refurbish the old GE factory. He said that they hope to break ground in the coming years on the additional 40 acres in the Burning Ground area and another industrial building there, unifying the property and making it a small industrial park.

*VDOT* – Ed said he was glad that David Wilson is coming on board and there wasn't much new to report from VDOT.

*Dominion* – Bob reported that Mike Isper, the former VDOT RAB rep, is now working for Dominion and is managing Dominion's hazardous waste management program in Richmond.

*Industrial Development Authority* – Mr. Byrd said that the IDA has requested proposals from developers for a master plan for a future multi-story office park. IDA expects to receive these proposals in July. The process is moving forward.

#### **Army Corps Update (George Mears, U.S. Army Corps)**

George Mears provided an FNOD Site Summary Update handout to the RAB. RAB members should have received the new edition of the site management plan in the mail. George said that the site management plan would be posted on the website within the next couple of weeks. There are 37 different sites at FNOD. Work is in progress or is at some level of completion at all but three of the sites.

#### **Environmental Studies Update (Jeff Zoeckler, USACE)**

##### **Arsenic Investigation Area (AOC 22)**

The site is located right adjacent to the Ashley Capital warehouse, the former GE warehouse. Jeff said that the Corps is looking at the occurrence of arsenic in groundwater in this area. The Corps has completed all four phases of field work here and is evaluating the data. The purpose of the investigation is to assess the occurrence of arsenic in groundwater and to determine if arsenic might be naturally occurring or if there's a source of arsenic contributing to the groundwater. Arsenic was detected in three wells.

- HSP-MW 26 – Up to 70.5 ppb (total), 67.9 ppb (dissolved)
- AOC 22-MW04 – Up to 29.5 ppb (total), 26.6 ppb (dissolved)
- GE-MW18 A –Up to 13.8 ppb (total), 11 ppb (dissolved)

Jeff said that other metals showed similar patterns of detection in these wells. The total and dissolved concentrations are close. Jeff showed maps which illustrated where the highest concentrations were detected. EPA's maximum contaminant level for arsenic in drinking water is 0.01 mg/l or 10 ppb. He also showed figures that compared the concentrations of arsenic, iron, and manganese. Jeff said that the species of iron that they analyzed for is a good indicator of reducing conditions, which is a geochemical condition where there is low dissolved oxygen. Arsenic and other metals appear to have been mobilized within groundwater in this area. The soil sampling data does not indicate a source. Most of the data was within background levels for metals at the site. It's more the geochemical conditions which are driving these metals in the groundwater. The Corps did not detect any significant levels of volatile organic compounds, semi-volatile organic compounds, or any of the other compounds or solvents that you might expect in an industrial area. Jeff said that the Corps needs to pin down exactly what the geochemical processes are that are driving these metals into solution. He suspects it is probably from an organic source (plant material, peat mulch) disposed of in the former Horseshoe Pond

finger that runs under the warehouse building. Jeff said the final report for this investigation will be coming out soon. Jeff said the field crew observed sandy material down to six or seven feet, like what you would normally see for fill material. At the bottom of that was about two feet of really organic, black swampy type material. George summarized by saying it looks like what we have at this site is a man-induced geochemical environment with no source. David Saunders asked if the Corps ruled out the possibility of someone dumping stuff there. George said yes, because if something was dumped it would have appeared in the soil samples. The detections in groundwater are much higher than what is in the soil. Bob Williams asked if the Corps took any gas analysis from the wells. Jeff said yes and there were no detections. Jeff said there was an organic odor to it but it didn't set off the meter.

Jeff said that the Corps is going to finish the Site Investigation phase, and will probably roll this site into the Nansemond River Beachfront Remedial Investigation (NRB RI). The NRB RI will study soil and groundwater just to the northeast of Ashley Capital's property. Jeff pointed out that the concentrations have not spread laterally in 40 or 50 years. If it were going to spread, it would have done so by now. Jeff said that detection levels drop before it hits the river, but as part of the RI, the Corps will collect some additional samples to try to evaluate if there is any interaction with the river. The levels are so low that the second it hits the river it would be immediately diluted. "So it's not doing any harm to the river." George said that the size of the site is one to two acres. Bruce Johnson asked if the Corps took all the samples at the same time of the year. He said that he is on well water and he notices a change in the pH of the well water and seasonal variations. Jeff said they took some samples in February, October, and August. He said that he anticipated monitoring the wells for four quarters to see how it behaves throughout the year before doing any kind of remediation. Bob Williams asked how many sampling events are planned for this area. Jeff said the Corps hadn't decided yet but that this site will be rolled into the NRB RI and will continue to be monitored. George pointed out that the NRB investigation includes five Areas Of Concern (AOC). Jeff said future monitoring will focus on metals since prior sampling efforts ruled out Volatile Organic Compounds and Semi-Volatile Organic Compounds.

#### Nansemond River Beachfront (NRB) Shoreline Stabilization

The NRB shoreline stabilization study is about 90% complete. The Corps needs to stabilize the shoreline before conducting munitions response work in the NRB area. This effort will include offshore, near-shore, and the bluff. An aerial reconnaissance (LIDAR) survey was conducted in May. The conceptual designs are almost complete. Jeff showed the RAB an aerial photo of the stone revetment and erosion scarp at the NRB. The scarp is 8 to 15 feet deep in certain areas. Bluff erosion and sediment control is going to be crucial. We also need to stabilize this area for the Remedial Investigation that the Corps will be doing out here. The Corps is coordinating these efforts with Ashley Capital. Ashley Capital is installing a large storm sewer line through the area that the Corps is looking to stabilize. Jeff said the Corps also wants to minimize any disturbance to the existing habitat there. The Corps is only focusing on stabilizing areas where they have to either conduct munitions or environmental investigation work. The Corps is not responsible for other areas where shoreline is eroding if there are no environmental issues.

Jeff reviewed the types of shoreline stabilization design options including:

- Breakwaters – reduce wave energy
- Upland Berms – slow and reduce overland flow
- Geo-bags – in shallow water/reduce wave energy
- Post-excavation land profile alteration – reduce exposure to erosion
- Selective bulkheading repairs/installation
- Divert stormwater to pipe or Best Management Practice (i.e., pond or rip rap channel) to minimize flow volume

Jeff showed a photo of a breakwater near the HRSD discharge pipe.

#### AOC 10 (Track G Magazine Line) Site Screening Process (SSP) Investigation

Based on historical aerial photographs, the Corps has focused this investigation on the:

- Former tetryl loading platform
- Open storage area
- Ground scar
- Dark toned material
- Unidentified structure

Jeff showed the RAB these features on historical photos from 1948, 1954, and 1958. The Corps conducted soil and groundwater sampling in January 2006. They sampled for metals, explosives, SVOCs, VOCs, pesticides, and PCBs. The preliminary results, which were presented to the RAB in December 2006, indicated several detections of metals and pesticides in soil above the conservative risk-based screening criteria. As a result, the Corps then conducted human health and ecological risk assessments. The human health risk was below EPA's range that would require further action. The data did indicate a potential for ecological risks, primarily due to the potential exposure to certain pesticides in surface soil. The Corps proposes to conduct limited soil sampling for pesticides in surface soil to address uncertainty. The Corps submitted the SSP document to the regulators. The regulators had an additional concern about minor detections of explosive compounds in groundwater at temporary well MW01. The detection levels fell below risk-based screening levels. The Corps will go back and evaluate explosives in groundwater at the site even though the detections were below the risk-based levels. Jeff showed the RAB a site map illustrating the locations of the explosive detections at MW01. The Corps will be expanding the Site Investigation to include:

- Confirmation sampling at MW01 (and others) for explosives in groundwater
- Delineate pesticide (dieldrin) detections in surface soil near SB01 and SB03 soil sampling locations
- Evaluate pesticide detections in soil across the site. The data tends to indicate that the pesticide detections are a result of site-wide application rather than storage or a spill.

Cherie Walton asked why explosives wouldn't be expected near a magazine area. Jeff indicated that they didn't expect to find explosives in the groundwater because they didn't see any in the soil. Bruce Johnson asked if this could mean it's coming from somewhere else. Jeff said the Corps has a site directly upgradient of this area that shows no detection in soil but does have a couple minor detections in groundwater. He said the project team was looking at it.

#### Munitions Update

George asked Don McDaniels from Ashley Capital to report to the RAB on an incident that Don witnessed. On Sunday, May 20, Don was making security rounds at the Ashley Capital building and the riverfront. He found two boys trespassing on Ashley Capital property near the Nansemond River beachfront. The boys were tossing around a MKIV Detonating Fuse. George showed the RAB the photo of the item. Don asked the boys for the item and reported it to the Corps. Don said the boys were at the edge of Ashley Capital property and TCC's property. The boys were past the second set of ordinance signs that the Corps has posted. Don said that people are just wandering around on the beach. "We've had several souvenir hunters back there with metal detectors since the article about the Civil War..." George said the Corps will be extending the fence 150 feet down into the water to prevent easy access to the NRB. George acknowledged that the Corps is now getting pressure from trespassers from the residential side now.

Zapata's Munitions Response contract at FNOD ended in February 2007. The Corps estimates that there are 74 more investigation grids left at FNOD as of Feb 2007. A grid is 100 foot by 100 foot square. The Corps estimates that this work will take 31 months to complete. Hamid Rafiee (U.S. Army Corps, Baltimore District) explained that the Corps awarded the first phase of the next FNOD Munitions Response contract to Weston on May 22, 2007. Phase 1 will cost \$330,147.00 and will include mobilization and facility setup, a work plan, site visit, and construction support for the Ashley Capital stormwater line across the NRB. It will also cover future construction support needs in areas where munitions concerns are still present. Phase II will cover munitions clean-up at the Main Burning Ground, and if funds permit, the Nansemond River Beachfront. The Corps expects to award Phase II no later than June 30, 2007. The remaining FNOD MMRP funding for FY07 is estimated at \$650,000; however, the contract proposal for all remaining tasks is considerably higher and will have to be funded with future FY money. Field work will begin in mid September 2007 if regulatory review of the work plans can be expedited.

Don McDaniels pointed out that the work that Ashley Capital is doing on the storm lines is repair/maintenance work, not a new project. He said Ashley Capital is repairing the lines to prevent some of the shoreline erosion which is occurring now. George pointed out that Ashley was replacing the current 13-inch line with a 40-inch line. The Corps needs to clear the entire excavation area for the new line for ordinance.

Bob Williams asked about the Horseshoe Pond. George said that the Horseshoe Pond can move forward, and that it will probably go to a "no further action" Record of Decision.

#### **Action Items**

Rob Thomson pointed out that the Track K Record of Decision was signed by EPA. Rob said that the site is done for soil (not for groundwater).

- Sandra asked if the Corps needed to post a public notice about the final decision in the newspaper. Bill Hudson said "Yes."
- George will come up with a new table showing the changes in the project timelines.

#### **Next FNOD RAB Meeting**

- Sept 6, Bon Secours, 6:15 p.m.

#### **Agenda items for the next RAB meeting:**

- AOC 15 Update
- NRB shoreline stabilization designs
- AOC 11
- Arsenic Investigation Update

<b>Others Present:</b> George Mears Jeff Zoeckler Hamid Rafiee Bill Hudson Art Collins Katie Moore Lynn Bartlett Dave Zaleski Don McDaniel Rick Aiken Ken Hafner Connie Baltimore Brett Waller Mike Sarros	<b>Affiliation:</b> USACE, Project Manager USACE, Project Engineer USACE, Baltimore District EPA Community Involvement Hampton Roads Planning District Comm Burbage Grant City of Suffolk Ashley Capital Ashley Capital J.M. Waller Community USACE, Norfolk District VDOT VDOT
--	---